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Conference Calls on U.S. to Act To Speed Nuclear Disarming

CPYRGHT

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The United States was urged today to take immediate steps to prevent a nuclear holocaust.

The report of a three-day conference here declared:

"The time to act is now. 'Unlimited increases in retaliatory power, on both sides, will make the balance more unstable, and every new hand that holds the bomb makes its control more difficult.'"

The report was made public by Gov. G. Mennen Williams who had invited the group of scientists and public figures to the campus of the University of Michigan here to discuss what he called one of the "most challenging public questions of our times."

It was the third such conference called by the Governor in recent months. The others were on education and economic policy.

Detection Is Weighed

The report said that under present conditions no detection system would be 100 per cent effective. But the risk to the nation's security that some tests may escape detection, it said, must be weighed against the risk of allowing negotiations to break down and the arms race to continue unabated.

The conferees emphasized the need to develop improved detection methods for small-yield or muffled underground tests.

A research program, they suggested, might include tests carried out jointly by the nuclear

powers, under international supervision, with any nation interested sending observers.

Although it is difficult to guard against a deliberate surprise attack with massive nuclear weapons, the report said, the United States must take the initiative in improving existing detection systems and developing new ones, such as a reconnaissance satellite.

Peiping's Role Assayed

The conferees also acknowledged the importance of Communist China in efforts to achieve arms control.

"In any general reduction of conventional armaments, or the establishment of inspection zones in Asia to guard against surprise attacks," the report said, "it's [China's] participation is essential."

Those attending the conference were: Benjamin H. Cohen, former delegate to the United Nations and disarmament adviser to former President Truman; Dr. William Davidon, associate physicist at the Argonne Laboratory, LaMont, Ill.; Prof. Hans Morgenthau of the Johns Hopkins University; Prof. Eugene Rabinowitz of the University of Illinois, editor of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists; Prof. I. David Singer of the University of Michigan, and Prof. Alfred Stern of Wayne State University.

Robert Matteson, a member of the Board of National Intelligence Estimates of the Central Intelligence Agency, was an observer.